



■ The dress-making workshop participants during the 'graduation' ceremony

Filipino women gain new skills at dressmaking workshop

A TOTAL of 28 Filipinos took part in a dress-making workshop organised by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the Philippine Embassy in co-operation with Pinary Ikaw Na (PIN), a Filipino women's organisation in Bahrain.

A ceremony was held at the Arman Hotel in Juffair to con-

By JULIA CASSANO

gratulate the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) on completing the course, which, according to PIN president Dinah Ana, was aimed at instilling confidence in the workers by providing them with an important skill.

"Not only have you all acquired

the technical skills necessary to excel in dressmaking, but you have also developed valuable skills such as communication, team work and camaraderie," she told the participants.

Irma Morota, 58, who has been working in Bahrain for 18 years, said the course opened her eyes to the importance of

learning new skills.

"I can now alter my own clothes," she said, adding that she can also make her own clothes such as skirts, pyjamas, dresses and gowns.

Rosario Constantino, a 53-year-old housemaid, said she was 'grateful' to learn a valuable skill. OWWA welfare officer Dr

Amelito Adel suggested that new initiatives be created to provide more workers in Bahrain with opportunities to learn new skills.

The programme, which was held at the embassy premises in Manama, was conducted by Epifania Puyoc and seven assistant teachers, who were previous graduates of the course.

Stage is set for enthronement of Anglican bishop in Bahrain

By NAMAN ARORA



■ Rev'd Sean

PREPARATIONS for the first ever consecration and enthronement of an Anglican bishop in Bahrain are underway, with a five-day series of events kicking off tomorrow.

The Rev'd Sean Semple has chosen to be consecrated and begin his ministry as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf at the St Christopher's Cathedral, Manama, and is looking forward to a busy year ahead.

"My priority over the next year is to get to know the people of the diocese and the context in which they offer ministry," he told the *GDN*. "This will mean travelling to most, if not all, of the churches in the Gulf and in Cyprus, and listening to people's stories and learning about what is going well and what is a challenge in particular places.

"I have already started this work by spending time at St Andrew's, Abu Dhabi ahead of my Consecration service. I have also initiated a new communications strategy to ensure that good news, good practice and important information can be shared effectively within the diocese to enhance our sense of individual congregations being part of a larger family."

The programme will kick off on Wednesday at St Christopher's Cathedral at 7pm, with the Bahrain launch of the Bible Society's Migration Bible, an English language version of the holy book, supplemented by more than 250 pages of stories and analysis focused on migration.

This will be followed by a talk on Thursday at 7pm at the Isa Cultural Centre's Press Conference Hall, delivered by Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Rev'd Sean's incumbent.

His talk, 'Healing After Conflict', will reflect on "the healing needed after not only the conflict in Palestine-Israel, but also Sudan and the Ukraine," and is being

organised with King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-Existence.

On Friday at 6pm, the main event – the Holy Eucharist with Ordination, Consecration and Enthronement – will take place at the St Christopher's Cathedral in Manama.

"The ceremony will involve the consecration of the Reverend Sean Semple by the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil. The symbols of the office of bishop will be presented and the new bishop will be enthroned in the 'cathedral' or seat of the bishop in St Christopher's Cathedral, Manama," St Christopher's Cathedral dean The Very Rev'd Dr Richard M. Fermer explained.

Influential

There will also be a Thanksgiving service at the Awali Church on Saturday at 9.30am, and the programme will end on Sunday with Bishop Sean's first Confirmation service.

Among those arriving in Bahrain for the consecration will be Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East Primate Archbishop Hosam Naoum, an influential Palestinian Christian voice during the ongoing conflict in Gaza, who consecrated the oil used to anoint King Charles III at his coronation.

He will be joined by Anglican Communion Secretary General Bishop Anthony Poggio, Province of Alexandria Primate Archbishop Samy Shehata, Church of England's Faith and Order Commission Chair Reverend Dr Robert Innes as well as 'Clerk of the Closet', heading the College of Chaplains of UK's King Charles III's Ecclesiastical Household Reverend Richard Jackson.

Rev'd Sean was born in South Africa

and holds a post-graduate degree in Spirituality and Clinical Psychology, and has ministered in South Africa, Cyprus and England.

"As the new Anglican Bishop I look forward to working with Christians of all traditions to promote the gospel of love, good neighbourliness, peace and fulfilled living," he added.

"Our churches exist in around 10 nations, and over three time zones. We are at the crossroads of the world – where East meets West, and South meets North and this is clearly reflected in the demographics of most of our churches.

"The greatest challenge I believe we face is to understand each church in its own political jurisdiction and national culture, and at the same time to hold this diverse group of churches together as a defined Anglican family.

"We are still working on developing a uniting and inclusive form of Middle Eastern Anglicanism that reflects the demographics of our churches while not being overly reliant on one expression of Anglican worship or practice.

"Faith can promote a feeling of safety for migrant Christians in a foreign country and churches very often become spiritual lifelines and a surrogate family – both of which enhance wellbeing and personal resilience."

Established in 1976, the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is one of the three dioceses that make up the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Geographically, the diocese includes Cyprus, Oman, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and Yemen.

The diocese is divided into two archdeacons, that of Cyprus and the Gulf, with two cathedrals, St Paul's in Cyprus, and St Christopher's in Bahrain.

naman@gdnmedia.bh